

Conservation Security Program



*You've been
taking care
of natural
resources
on your
land for
years...*

*...now,
you have a
chance to be
financially
rewarded
for your
work.*

Conservation Security Program Overview

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill to reward farmers and ranchers who are implementing conservation on America's working lands. CSP is a voluntary program based on conservation accomplishments that recognizes the contributions of the best land stewards and encourages them to do more.

CSP rounds out a portfolio of conservation for America's farmers and ranchers. CSP is helping producers improve management of private lands through NRCS conservation services and programs to sustain past environmental gains, address current resource problems, and provide for regulatory relief.

The Watershed Approach

To provide the best service possible to producers, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is implementing CSP on a watershed basis. Focusing on high priority watersheds allows NRCS to provide quality service to more applicants than if the program were implemented nationwide because of limits on both program and technical assistance funding in Fiscal Year 2005.

CSP is being offered in watersheds across the country. The Lower Grande Ronde Watershed has been chosen as a CSP priority watershed for 2005.

Signing up for CSP

Applicants will be selected at the national level for the 2005 sign-up. The fact sheet entitled "CSP Eligibility, Qualification and Application Steps" contains detailed information about applying for CSP. Generally, to apply, land managers will need to complete the following steps:

1. Attend an informational meeting and self-assessment workshop to learn more about CSP and receive assistance in finalizing your self-assessment workbook.
2. Complete a self-assessment workbook.
3. Gather appropriate records and documentation.
4. Contact your local Farm Service Agency to receive a USDA (also called SCIMS) Identification Number.
5. Set up an appointment with your Local NRCS staff to confirm your eligibility, documentation and determine your enrollment category.
6. Submit your Conservation Stewardship Plan.
7. If you are selected for funding, complete your Conservation Stewardship Contract.

For additional information on the Conservation Security Program in Oregon, go to www.or.nrcs.usda.gov, in Washington go to www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov.

Conservation Security Program in Lower Grande Ronde



Lower Grande Ronde Watershed

Watershed Acres:

Total - 975,500
Tribal Lands - 450

Private Land:

Oregon - 368,300
Washington - 74,100

Land Use Acres:

Cropland - 26,700
Pastureland - 84,400
Rangeland - 376,600
Forestland - 479,000

292 Working Farms

Major Commodities:

Cattle
Forestry
Small Grains

For More Information
Contact the Local NRCS
Field Office:

Enterprise 541-426-4521
Clarkston 509-758-8012

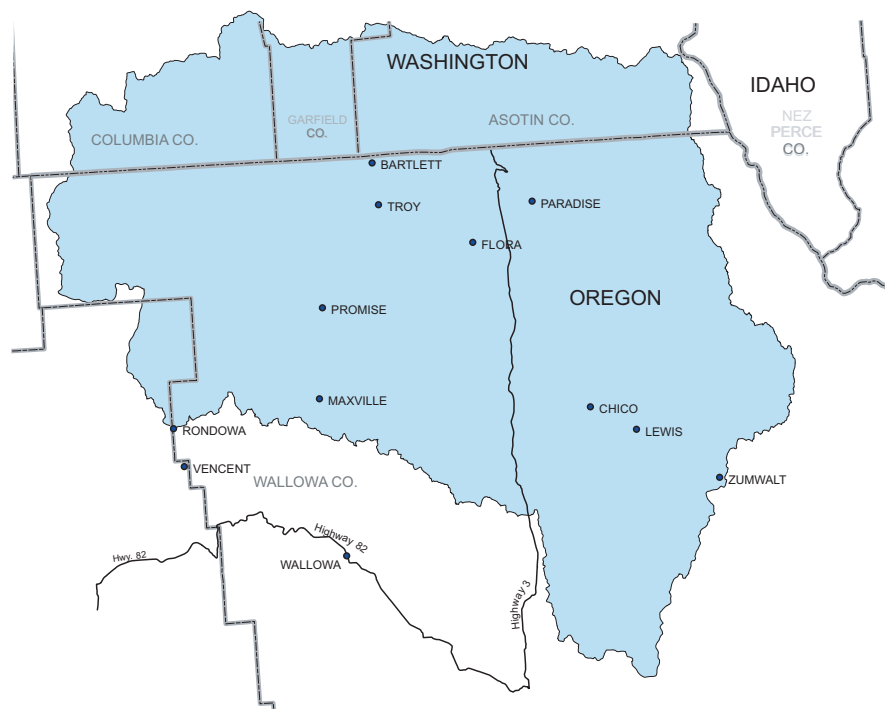
CSP 2005 in the Lower Grande Ronde Watershed

The dynamics of the Lower Grande Ronde Watershed were formed by a series of geologic events. These events created soils in the watershed which are primarily shallow to moderately deep silt loams over clay and bedrock. The Grande Ronde River flows west to east across the northern part of the watershed, eventually joining the Snake River in Washington State. The Grande Ronde River provides habitat for four ESA-listed fish species, including bull trout, Spring Chinook, Fall Chinook and steelhead.

Rangeland is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue plant communities. The Zumwalt Prairie is a major rangeland area in this watershed, considered to be the largest remaining area of native Palouse prairie. Forest lands are owned by industrial timber companies and family-operated ranches.

The Lower Grande Ronde Watershed also contains ceded lands of the Nez Perce Tribe, headquartered in Lapwai, Idaho. The Nez Perce have also recently purchased private lands within the watershed that they manage for wildlife habitat.

Lower Grande Ronde Watershed



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